

**MEMORANDUM**

September 7, 2009

To: Washington Families Standing Together  
From: Michael Snyder  
RE: **R71 Signature Verification WAFST Observation Spreadsheets**

Between July 25 and September 2, 2009 observers for Washington Families Standing Together witnessed Referendum 71 signature verification as conducted by the WA Secretary of State's Office (OSOS). Observation numbers and access was limited, allowing us to actually see only about one fifth of total signatures checked. However, in over a month our observers saw much of interest, and the two attached spreadsheets are the product of their hard work.

The reason there are two separate spreadsheets is because OSOS split the signature verification process for R71 into two different parts:

1. OSOS main first check and master check verification process, based on a special version of the statewide Voter Registration Database (VRDB) tailored to signature verification. Signatures rejected by initial check were reviewed and often accepted by "master checkers". Results of WAFST observations are given in "R71 WAFST AQ Summary 1" spreadsheet.
2. OSOS "recent registration recheck" includes voters registered after mid-June not listed in the main verification database. Despite the name, this innovation was a third check of all signatures previously rejected as "not found as registered" using a totally different VRDB version. Results of WAFST observation are given in "R71 Recent Reg Recheck WAFST Summary" spreadsheet

**R71 WAFST AQ SUMMARY 1 SPREADSHEET**

This spreadsheet lists over 3,600 signatures on R71 petitions accepted during the main OSOS first check, master check verification process but which are questionable on the basis of direct observation by WAFST. Items in the first spreadsheet include two major groups of questionable signatures AQs (= accepted but questionable) identified by WAFST during the initial first check; and signatures originally rejected by first checkers but then accepted by the master checkers. There are also a handful of signatures listed because they illustrate the potential of signatures accepted by first checkers to be subsequently rejected as invalid.

<b>R71 WAFST AQ SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNATURES</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>PERCENT OF WHAT?</b>
Total R71 Signatures Checked by OSOS	137,881		
<b>Signatures Accepted</b>	<b>122,007</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>of total checked</b>
	+1,430	+1.2%	above legal minimum
<b><i>estimated Sigs Observed by WAFST</i></b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>of accepted</b>
Total R71 WAFST AQ Summary 1	3,680	2.7%	of total checked
Minus sigs Accepted then Rejected, etc	-17	-0.01%	of total checked
<b>Total ACCEPTED but QUESTIONABLE</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>of accepted (15% of obs)</b>
1A = 1st check AQ	2,579	10.7%	of estimated observed
2A = 2nd master check nf > A & non > A	1,084	4.5%	of estimated observed
<i>PROJECTED 1st &amp; master check AQs</i>	<i>18,316</i>	<i>15.0%</i>	<i>of accepted</i>
<i>min new Rejected needed to decertify R71</i>	<i>-1,431</i>	<i>-7.8%</i>	<i>of projected AQs</i>

The first R71 WAFST AQ Summary spreadsheet contains the following features and information:

- Rows contain individual R71 petition signature records, sorted by volume, page and line.
- Summary information for each signature complete on one page (total of 63 pages).
- Key of abbreviations used in the spreadsheet given at the bottom of every page.
- columns on the left (and far right) provide volume, page and line citations for each signature
- “AQ Reasons” column shows each signature’s OSOS adjudication, as observed by WAFST; to date OSOS has yet to identify all specific signatures accepted in certifying R71.
- “When” column shows if signature was flagged during first check (1A) or master check (2A)
- “AQ Notes” column gives precise information (when available; there was very little time for detailed note taking between signatures!) why individual signatures should be rejected.
- “SOS recheck” records results (as reported so far) of OSOS recheck of part of WAFST’s initial request (the “222 list”); plus our observations of our opponent’s recheck request.

#### **R71 RECENT REG RECHECK WAFST SUMMARY SPREADSHEET**

The second spreadsheet lists our observations of the 3rd check of all signatures previously rejected as “not found” on the VRDB (over three fourths of all rejected signatures). Going far beyond “recent registrations” the 3rd check rehabilitated over 10 percent of signatures it reviewed, resulting in a total of 1,724 “new” Accepts, exceeding R71’s margin over the validation threshold.

<b>R71 RECENT REG RECHECK WAFST</b>	<b>SIGNATURES</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>PERCENT OF WHAT?</b>
<b>Signatures Accepted via 3<sup>rd</sup> Check</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>1.4%</b> <b>10.8%</b>	<b>of total sigs accepted</b> <b>of all sigs rejected</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Check Sigs Observed by WAFST</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	of sigs 3 <sup>rd</sup> checked
<b>Questionable New Accepts via 3<sup>rd</sup> Check</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>of 3<sup>rd</sup> checks observed</b>
3AA = very questionable new accepts	199	43.3%	of questionable 3 <sup>rd</sup> checks
3a = other 3 <sup>rd</sup> check questionables	261	56.7%	of questionable 3 <sup>rd</sup> checks

The second R71 Recent Reg Recheck WAFST Summary spreadsheet includes all 1,724 additional new Accepts generated by the 3rd check. In contrast to the main validation effort, OSOS released limited data on specific petition signatures newly accepted from the start of the 3rd check. So our analysis is based on combining OSOS information for every signature accepted via the recent registration recheck, with WAFST direct observation of the over two thirds of the 3rd check process.

The proportion of R71 petition signatures actually observed by WAFST and then flagged as problematic is over twice as high with 3rd check signatures than it is with the first and master checks. In part this stems from the fact that many signatures were matched during the 3rd check with voters who are not newly registered. Thus the same signatures were rejected as “not found” by at least two other (and often more experienced) checkers during the initial (and original) OSOS validation process. No wonder observers who also watched the initial processing had doubts about many 3<sup>rd</sup> check decisions rehabilitating large numbers of previously unfound signatures.

Specific features of the second spreadsheet covering the 3rd checks include

- Sorted by volume, page and line; all info for each signature on one page, 29 pages total.
- Gives volume, page and line citation for all 1,724 signatures newly accepted via 3<sup>rd</sup> check.
- Shows priority of questionable new Accepts (3AA and 3a) and gives details when available.

**NOTE that the combined number of questionable signatures accepted by OSOS and identified on the two WAFST spreadsheets is: 3,663 + 460 = 4,123 total**